

Glenwood Ranger District

Gila National Forest

ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

2016

CEDAR BREAKS #404

Prepared By: /s/ DK Brown
District Range Staff

Date: --01/06/2016---

Approved By: /s/ Anne L. Casey
District Ranger

Date: -01/06/2016--

Annual Operating Instructions

I. INTRODUCTION

Kendall Brown and Andrew Bryant (Forest Service) met with Hugh B. & Marge McKeen (permittee) on January 6, 2016 to discuss management of the Cedar Breaks Allotment during the current grazing year and to plan grazing management during the upcoming grazing season. These Annual Operating Instructions are the result of those discussions.

The authorized stocking for the upcoming grazing season on the Cedar Breaks Allotment is as follows:

Term Permitted Livestock Numbers

Number and Class of Livestock	Dates
145 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
5 Horses-Saddle	03/01 – 02/28

Cedar Breaks Allotment Annual Authorization

Number and Class of Livestock Authorized	Dates Authorized
145 Cattle-Cow/calf	03/01 – 02/28
4 Horses-Saddle	03/01 – 02/28

Cedar Breaks Allotment Rotation Schedule

Class of Livestock	Dates	Pasture
Cow/Calf	03/01 – 04/30	West CCC
Cow/Calf	05/01 – 05/30	East CCC
Cow/Calf	06/01 – 07/15	South Cedar Breaks/Alma Flat/Mineral Creek
Cow/Calf	07/15 – 08/15	North Cedar Breaks
Cow/Calf	08/16 – 09/30	East CCC
Cow/Calf	10/01 – 02/28	West CCC
Horses/Bulls	03/01 – 02/28	Community
Horses/Cattle	Holding/Doctoring 03/01 – 02/28	Highway 180, River
Note: No cattle or horses are allowed in the San Francisco River.		

You did not use Highway 180 holding pasture in **2015**.

The above schedule for stocking the allotment depends upon the availability of forage and water. Some flexibility in the above pasture rotation dates will be allowed for justifiable causes such as weather conditions, livestock management needs, and range conditions. If there is a need to deviate from the above pasture rotation schedule by more than 15 days, you must notify the Ranger District of the proposed change in the pasture rotation date and the reason for the change. A deviation from the above schedule of more than 15 days must be approved verbally or in writing. Credit/Refund applications will not be processed unless District personnel have been notified either in advance or at the time of removal of stock.

II. MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK

You are responsible for monitoring water availability and forage utilization. It is your responsibility to move your livestock when sufficient water is no longer available or when proper forage utilization is achieved in a pasture. You are responsible for keeping track of and maintaining control of your livestock. In the event your livestock are found to be out of the scheduled pasture, you will be required to find, gather, and return your animals to the proper pasture as soon as possible.

III. IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE

All range improvements assigned in the 10-year Term Grazing Permit are to be maintained in functioning condition. In the event these improvements cannot be brought up to a functioning condition, you should notify this office so we can schedule them for reconstruction as funds become available. You may apply for a free use post and stay permit for the maintenance of fences and corrals on your allotment. The following is a list of improvements that we discussed that need reconstruction.

- Reconstruct 1 mile of fence #106 on South Cedar Breaks pasture.
- Reconstruct ½ mile of fence #006 on North side of Wylie Morgan (Alma allotment boundary). COMPLETED 2015.
- Reconstruct fence #122 next to WS ditch. Clearances have been obtained and reconstruction can proceed.
- Reconstruct section of #122 from Wiley Morgan pvt land south to #505 (division fence between East CCC and River pastures). Clearances have been obtained and reconstruction can proceed.
- Clean out of Section 20 tank in Community pasture. We will check for cultural resource clearances to let you know when work can begin.
- Section 5 tank washed out (breached dam) during the recent floods in September 2013. Need to re-construct.

IV. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

1. Fire: Branding and warming fires should be used with good judgment - not on windy days or during times when fires are specifically restricted. The Glenwood District is planning to allow naturally ignited fires to burn on the district this coming year. You have indicated that you are in favor of managed fire on your allotment. We will notify you and solicit your input if we have a wildfire on your allotment.

2. Records: In order to complete Permit Modifications, you must provide the District with an accounting of materials used and the days and dollars spent on your part to complete the permit modification. This information provides evidence of your contribution to range developments.

3. Heavy Equipment Use: Written permission from the District Ranger will be required for any heavy equipment use on the National Forest. Examples of this are cleaning out stock tanks, road maintenance, etc.

4. Credit/Refund: Any credit or refund applications for grazing fees must be made as far in advance as possible. Credit/Refund applications are not retroactive and will be approved only if the District Ranger is notified of livestock removal prior to or at the time the livestock are taken off the allotment. You will be required to provide your Social Security or tax ID number in order for a refund to be processed.

5. Salting and Supplemental Feeding:

- a. Feeding of bulk feeds on National Forest land will not be permitted unless a proven need to use the supplements is shown, and a detailed plan is developed and approved.
- b. Feeding of hay on National Forest land will be permitted as an attractant for your cattle. Approval of this use of hay as long as you limit hay locations to those where salting is permitted and to Community Pasture for horses only. You may use either **certified weed free** hay or hay grown on your private land in Alma. Allowable use guidelines will still apply to all pastures.
- c. Feeding of vitamin or mineral supplements, protein blocks, molasses licks, etc. on National Forest land is permitted when used in the same manner as salt.
- d. Salting practices will be in agreement with the 10-Year Term Grazing Permit. Salt will be placed in areas of available feed to help draw cattle to them. Salt will not be placed within ¼ mile of water and/or in natural concentrations areas which receive heavy grazing use. To facilitate gathering, you may place salts in corrals during the week before scheduled pasture move dates. No salting within the Alma Flat area.

V. ALLOTMENT STATUS

The Cedar Breaks Allotment has been analyzed through the NEPA analysis process. The resulting 2002 Decision Notice meets Forest Plan standards and guidelines. This decision along with the terms of your Ten-Year Term Permit and these Annual Operating Instructions provide direction for management on this allotment.

The terms and conditions of Part Three of your Term Grazing Permit constitute your allotment management plan.

VI. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Keep track of conditions on your allotment and make plans to reduce or remove livestock if vegetative/watershed conditions could be substantially harmed due to continued grazing. There are three areas of special management concern. These are listed below. Do not place salt or supplements within these areas.

- Alma Flat Pasture in South Cedar Breaks. Shut off water at the well once grazing intensity levels have been achieved to encourage stock to move to other areas of the pasture.
- Southeast corner of the Community Pasture. As long as water is available in Section 20 tank or the Ditch Tank, do not provide water in this area.

VII. UTILIZATION MONITORING

You will be notified when monitoring is to be conducted on your allotment in order for you to be involved.

Monitoring of herbaceous forage will be conducted by ocular estimate of utilization of forage plants within a pasture. When necessary, verification of ocular estimates will be conducted using common methodology such as weigh/clip, grazed plant numbers, or stubble height. Grazing use will be described in the following utilization categories.

Qualitative Grazing Intensity Category	Use of Forage by Weight	Qualitative Indicators of Grazing Intensity
Light to no-use	< 30%	Only choice plants and areas show use: there is no use of poor forage plants.
Conservative	31-40%	Choice forage plants have abundant seed stalks: Areas more than a mile from water show little use: About on third to one half of primary forage plants show grazing on key areas.
Moderate	41-50%	Most of accessible range shows use: Key areas show patch appearance with one half to two thirds of primary forage plants showing use: Grazing is noticeable in zone 1-1.5 miles from water.
Heavy	51-60%	Nearly all primary forage plants show grazing on key areas: Palatable shrubs show hedging: Key areas show a lack of seed stalks: Grazing is noticeable in areas over 1.5 miles from water.
Severe	61 +%	Key areas show a clipped or mowed appearance (no stubble height): Shrubs are severely hedged: There is evidence of livestock trailing to forage: Areas over 1.5 miles from water lack stubble height.
Holechek, J.L. and D. Galt. 2000. Grazing Intensity Guidelines. Rangelands 22(3), pg 11-14.		

An allowable use of 20% is assigned to woody obligate riparian plant species located in Keller Canyon. The measurement of woody riparian species will be conducted using the grazed/ungrazed plant method. The San Francisco River is excluded from livestock grazing.

If you observe utilization levels approaching moderate intensity (40% or greater use) you will need to take action for making changes to the grazing in that area. There are many actions that can be taken, such as pasture moves, locating your livestock on different waters, moving of salt and supplements, etc. We will work with you in order to insure that any actions taken are appropriate.

Utilization monitoring will normally coincide with pasture moves of livestock. The percent grazing use will be documented at that time. The following dates have been tentatively been scheduled for monitoring on the allotment. You are strongly encouraged to participate in monitoring.

Pasture	Monitoring Date	Key areas
West & East CCC	06/01	Pasture
South Cedar Breaks	07/15	Pasture
North Cedar Breaks	08/15	Pasture
Community	11/30	Pasture
Highway 180	11/30	Forest Service portion only
San Francisco River	periodic	Riparian area, verify no use.

Open and positive communications concerning all AOI content is encouraged. Feel free to contact Kendall Brown if you have any questions or concerns.

If unforeseen operational conditions require a change in the management specified in this AOI please contact rangeland management personnel at the Glenwood Ranger District. Change requests should be made in advance so that field inspections (if necessary) can be conducted. Approval of changes to this AOI may be verbal or written, depending on the nature of the change requested. Verbal changes will be documented to your file for record keeping purposes. Failure to follow the direction provided in this AOI, or other instructions (verbal or written) of a Forest Officer may lead

to adverse action against your Term Grazing Permit (Part 1, Section 3 of your Term Grazing Permit).